

5848.165USWO

### ABSTRACT

A composition for an insulating layer of medium to high voltage power cable is disclosed. The composition comprises a cross-linkable polymer with hydrolysable silane groups, and a silanol condensation catalyst of formula (I)  $\text{ArSO}_2\text{OH}$  or a precursor thereof, Ar being a benzene ring substituted with at least one hydrocarbyl radical such that the total number of carbon atoms of the hydrocarbyl radical (s) is 8-20, or a naphthalene ring substituted with at least one hydrocarbyl radical such that the total number of carbon atoms of the hydrocarbyl radical(s) is 4-18, and the catalyst of formula (I) containing 14-28 carbon atoms in total. A medium to high voltage cable with an insulating layer that has a thickness of more than 2 mm and that comprises the cross-linked product of the above mentioned composition is also disclosed, as is a process of preparing such a cable by cross-linking the cable in the presence of steam at a superatmospheric pressure. Preferable the crosslinking is carried out with saturated steam in a vulcanising tube at about 0.8-1.2 MPa and 170-190°C.

104210-EE45860